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Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Written statement* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[24 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Human rights situation in occupied Arab territories

Report on the human rights situation in the occupied Arab territories "Palestine-Golan- Shebaa Farms"

Submitted to: Human Rights Council, 38th session.
Submitted by: Maat for Peace, development and human rights (in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council).
Date: May 2018
Provided on: Item 7 Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.

Preface

Maat for Peace, development and human Rights (Egypt) submits this report to monitor violations, practices and policies of Israel on land of the occupied Arab territories, which grossly contradict international laws without regard to any human rights and paying no attention to being an occupying power burdened with obligations. It is obliged to provide all the needs of the protected population in accordance with the Geneva Conventions, in particular the Fourth Convention on the protection of the rights of civilians.
Since March 2018, Israel has been perpetrating heinous massacres of Palestinian citizens who peacefully demonstrate at the border fence of the Gaza Strip to claim the right of return, and the Israeli forces didn't pay any consideration to children, disabled, women and youth. They targeted the physical extermination using lethal weapons which counts a clear violation to international law.
However, the lack of international accountability of Israeli forces for such violations remains, as for the separation wall created by Israel without concern for the right to self-determination, in addition to strict respect for freedom of opinion and expression where the Knesset proposed "A bill that allows Israeli officials to ask Facebook to censor the content of the Internet, and to arrest children as for the case of "Ahd Al-Tamimi ".

Use of force and fire

What is happening now in the occupied territories from March to May 2018, specifically at the border fence with the Gaza Strip, represents clear violations of human rights and all international laws where it started when the Palestinians launched the "Grand Return March" in protest against the transfer of the American Embassy to the city of Jerusalem and to claim the right to return as well as to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of al-Nakba, where the occupying forces used tear gas, rubber bullets and types of live ammunition that caused many deaths and injuries to life-long disabilities. Until 14 May, nearly 58 Palestinians were killed and wounded about 2,800 others.
The Palestinians faced the most heinous types of human rights violations during these events, where the youngest Palestinian martyr, Leila Algandour, died from eight months old, affected by tear gas, in a scene, that reveals the international community's inaction towards the ongoing events in Palestine, and we find that more martyrs who have lost their lives are aged between 14 and 21, as the world witnessed during these events the fall of a truncated martyr, who remained defending his land until he was martyred, in addition to the scene of the girl who endangered her life amid indiscriminate gunfire from the occupying forces to save 4 young men from tear gas asphyxiation and how these youths made a human wall to protect the girl from random gunfire.
In April, 24 Palestinians were killed and more than 5,500 were injured, of whom 1,739 were wounded by live fire by the Israeli security forces in Gaza. 4 children were shot dead by Israeli forces, 3 were shot to the head and the neck, 233 were wounded with live ammunition and some were permanently disabled. On 20 April, 14-year-old Mohammed Ayoub was killed by a bullet to the head [1]. In November, Israeli security forces killed 62 Palestinians, including 14 children, and injured at least 3,494 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1 For more information, see https://goo.gl/eWpYvS

Arbitrary arrests and detention of children

The Israeli authorities have carried out numerous violations, including arbitrary arrests and detention of children, and by monitoring the detention of children, we find that till June 2017, the Israeli authorities detained "315 children" and in October 2017 arrested 453 Palestinians without charge 2 . The 16-year-old girl, "Ahd AL- Tamimi", was arrested as the case started on December 15, 2017, when she protested against the decision of "Trump" to announce Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. In the village of Nabi Saleh in the West Bank, rubber bullets were fired at her 15-year-old cousin by an Israeli soldier attacking her house and was arrested on 19 December 2017.

Economic and social rights

The Gaza Strip suffers an electricity crisis, due to restrictions imposed by Israel on the sector, with electricity outages ranging from 20 to 22 hours at a time, resulting in dilapidated sanitary infrastructure. It also affected hospitals by forcing them to reduce health care, as hospitals relied on emergency fuel supplied by the United Nations for operation of its generator, the damage caused by the power outage disrupted the drainage station as it did not operate without electricity, and because of that it became 3.8% of Groundwater is not safe to drink, and the maintenance of infrastructure in Palestine has become difficult because of the restrictions imposed by Israel on import and export of materials because the plant was badly damaged as a result of the Israeli military operation in 2014 and Israel prevented the importation of spare parts.

Settlement expansion and the separation wall

In a direct assault on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, during the first half of 2017, the Israeli authorities approved the addition of 560 settlement units3 , and the construction of more than 7,000 new units in East Jerusalem, and the occupying forces impose restrictions on the freedom of movement of Palestinians because of their construction Roads are used exclusively by Israelis, which constitutes racial discrimination against Palestinians, as those roads obstruct Palestinians to reach workplaces and schools, beside all this; Israel had set up checkpoints near settlements that further impeded the Palestinians and even resulted in the realization violence. One of the most striking facts is the encroachment on the occupied Palestinian territories leading to the non-applicability of the two-state solution. Israel is exerting pressure on communities in West Bethlehem, where it is able to expand, the Israeli population is now three times the Palestinian population, but restrictions have been imposed in dividing areas that prevent Palestinian villages from expanding and developing.

Residents of East Jerusalem also suffer from the abolition of residency and the introduction of a discriminatory planning and construction system, as demolitions present the perspective that works for Israel all the time to do those practices to alter the geographical balance in East Jerusalem. Information on the new law was that Israel had 13% of the land in East Jerusalem was allocated for Palestinian development and only 7% of the building permits are granted to Palestinians, which means the living space has been limited, and the Palestinians resorted to building houses without a permit and always endangered the possibility of their homes to be demolished. In order to avoid paying the demolition fees imposed by the Israeli authorities, Palestinians urge to undertake the demolish process on their own. 381 houses and other Palestinians' properties in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) were demolished in 2017 and led to the displacement of 588 people.

In the occupied Golan Heights (23000 thousand Israeli settlers) live in 34 settlements illegally, control 95% of the land and live the Syrian population (25,000 thousand inhabitants) in a limited area of five villages at the extreme of the occupied Golan, according to the report of the Committee on the occupied Palestinian territories, and Syrians living in the Golan also faced difficulty in obtaining building permits4 .

2 Human Rights Watch report-State of Palestine
https://goo.gl/gJVx8p
3 For more information see A/72/539
4 For more information see A/72/539

Recommendations

- Establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry to document continuous Israeli crimes, and in particular crimes committed during the last two months.

- Allow United Nations offices, special rapporteurs and other legal activists to enter the occupied Palestinian Territory to observe the current human rights situation.

- The intervention of the international community, including the Security Council, in order to take the necessary measures to reduce these violations against the Palestinians.

- Halting the construction of settlements, settlement expansion and construction activities of the separation wall, the cessation of forced evictions of Palestinian residents and the cessation of the demolition of their homes.

- Allow Palestinians to obtain permits to build their own homes, planning services and physical organization without discrimination.

- The elimination of restrictions imposed on residency permits in East Jerusalem and granting permits to Palestinians to exit the Gaza Strip and to exercise their rights and live a normal life.

- The elimination of restrictions imposed on the import of spare parts to commence the maintenance operations of factories and drainage stations.

- Israeli authorities must stop the detention and use of force against demonstrators. And shall release the child "Ahd al-Tamimi" and assure the treatment of detainees in accordance with the provisions of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, especially with regard to the detention of children.